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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,775	11/23/2005	Ellen M. Welch	10589-044-999	7049
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EXAMINER VOGEL, NANCY TREPTOW				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1636				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,775

Applicant(s)

WELCH ET AL.

Examiner

NANCY VOGEL

Art Unit

1636

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-24, 27, 30, 33, 38-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 34-37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/23/09 (2), 5/14/09
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 16-51 are pending in the case.

Receipt of Information Disclosure Statements on 4/23/09 (2) and 5/14/09 is acknowledged. One of the Information Disclosure Statements of 4/23/09 is a duplicate of the other, and therefore the references on the duplicate have been crossed through to avoid duplication. References crossed through on the first copy appear to have the wrong application number.

The following are considered new rejection due to new reasoning and the inclusion of an additional claim:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckmann et al. (WO 01/44516) in view of Rana (US Patent 6,503,713).

Beckmann et al. disclose a method of identifying a molecule that modulates premature translation termination or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay comprising contacting the molecule with a cell containing a nucleic acid sequence comprising a regulatory element operably linked to a reporter gene, wherein the reporter gene

comprises a premature stop codon, and detecting the protein expressed from the reporter gene wherein a molecule that modulates premature translation termination or non-sense-mediated mRNA decay is identified if the protein expressed from the reporter gene in the presence of the molecule is altered relative to the protein expressed from the reporter gene in the absence of the small molecule or the presence of a negative control (pages 2 line 19 – page 3 line 5) (17). The molecule may be a small chemical molecule (page 8 lines 25-31, page 19 lines 1-page 20 lines 25). The molecule can be may comprise benzodiazepines, isoprenoids, thiazolidinones, metathiazonones, morpholinos, (page 20, lines 1-20) (claim 43). The cell can be a hybridomas, a pre-B, a 293, a HeLa, a HepG2, a K562, or a 3T3 cell (page 7 lines 27-34) (claim 21). The reference teaches that an in vitro translation cellular extract may be used instead of a cell (see page 2, lines 19-25) (18). The reference discloses that the cellular extract may be rabbit reticulocyte, (23), HeLa (22-24). The molecule of interest can be bound to a solid state component, such as a glass surfaces (page 22) (claim 38, 39). A label can be used for a component of the assay, such as fluorescent dyes, radiolabels, enzymes, spectroscopic colorimetric label (see page 23) (claim 19, 20, 41, 42,). Detection may be by spectrophotometry, scintillation, etc. (claims 44). The reference discloses that the premature stop codon is UAA, UAG, or UGA, and UAA may be present (see Fig. 1) (claim 47). Since the claims recite UAAG, UAAA, UAAC, and UAAU as embodiments, and the reference discloses the UAA premature stop codon, the reference discloses at least one of the above 4 nucleotide embodiment. An increase in protein expressed in the presence of the molecule relative to the amount of protein expressed in its absence

would indicate that the molecule suppresses premature translation termination or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, and conversely, a decrease would indicate the ;molecule enhances premature translation termination or nonsense-mediated mRNA (claims 50, 51).

The difference between the reference and the instant claims is that a first step of contacting a target RNA with a library of small molecules under conditions that permit direct binding of the target RNA to a member of the library, and detecting the formation of a target RNA: small molecule complex, wherein a small molecule that binds to the target RNA is identified if a target RNA:small molecule complex is detected, is included. However, Rana (US Patent 6,503,721) discloses a method of identifying a small molecule that binds to a target RNA comprising contacting a target RNA, which may be any RNA, with a library of small molecules, and detecting whether a complex is formed between the RNA and a small molecule (see col. 6-7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have included such steps as disclosed by Rana, in the method of Beckmann, as a preliminary screen to identify possible candidates for molecules that modulate premature translation termination or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, since Rana and Beckmann are each concerned with isolating molecules which may interfere with binding a proteins to RNA, or more generally, with isolating molecules that bind to an RNA of interest. One would have been motivated to do so by the teaching of Rana that any RNA of interest may be tested for binding to compounds in library of binding candidates, for the purpose of the identification of compounds or molecules that may be useful in such areas as treatment of diseases or generally gene

regulation (see abstract). Based upon the teachings of the cited references, the high skill of one of ordinary skill in the art, and absent evidence to the contrary, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success to result in the claimed invention.

Claims 27, 30, 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckmann et al. (WO 01/44516) in view of Rana (US Patent 6,503,713) as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47- 51 above, and further in view of Shiroki et al. (In Vitro Translation Extracts from Tissue Culture Cells, Methods in Molecular Biology, 118, pages 449-458, 1999).

Beckmann et al. and Rana are cited essentially for the reasons set forth above. The difference between the reference and the instant claims is that particular cell free extracts are used.

However, Shiroki et al. discloses S10 extracts from HeLa cells used for in vitro translation. It would have been obvious to have used any particular known cell extract known to be useful for in vitro translation, since such extracts were well known in the art as evidenced by Shiroki et al., and since the use of any particular extract for its known and useful properties would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Based upon the teachings of the cited references, the high skill of one of ordinary skill in the art, and absent evidence to the contrary, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success to result in the claimed invention.

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckmann et al. (WO 01/44516) in view of Rana (US Patent 6,503,713) as applied to

claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47- 51 above, and further in view of Yang et al. (US Patent 7354709).

Beckmann et al. and Rana are cited essentially for the reasons set forth above.

The difference between the claim and the references is that the small molecule library is present on a chip.

However, Yang et al. teach that chips containing small libraries of such compounds as pyrrolinines, isoprenoids, benzodiazapines, thiazolidinones, metathiazooanones are known in the art (see col. 13 line 50 – col. 14, line 25). It would have been obvious to utilize chips containing libraries of chemical molecules since such chips were well known in the art as evidenced by Yang et al., and since the advantages of using chip technology which include such known benefits of miniaturization and ease of analysis were well known to be obtained using chips and computer technology. Based upon the teachings of the cited references, the high skill of one of ordinary skill in the art, and absent evidence to the contrary, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success to result in the claimed invention.

Claims 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckmann et al. (WO 01/44516) in view of Rana (US Patent 6,503,713) as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47-51 above, and further in view Berger et al. (US 2004/0162345)

Beckmann and Rana are cited essentially for the reasons set forth above.

The difference between the claims and the references is that the method further comprises determining the structure of the compound, by mass spectroscopy, NMR, X-ray crystallography, Edman degradation or vibration spectroscopy.

However, as evidenced by at least Berger et al., determining the structure of a candidate compound following its identification as useful was well known at the time of the invention. Berger disclose for example that compounds of a chemical library that are candidate compounds may be analyzed in their structure by such well known techniques as mass spectroscopy or NMR (para. 0161). Therefore, absent an unexpected result it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify their method of Beckmann et al. in view of Rana wherein a compound identified by the assays disclosed is further analyzed to determine its structure. The motivation to make the modification recited above arises from the desire to understand the mechanism of the compound's activity thereby providing a starting point to identify other structurally similar compounds with improved properties over the lead compound. Based upon the teachings of the cited references, the high skill of one of ordinary skill in the art, and absent evidence to the contrary, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success to result in the claimed invention.

Claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NANCY VOGEL whose telephone number is (571)272-0780. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 3:30, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low can be reached on (571) 272-0951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NANCY VOGEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1636

NV
6/27/09